

[31st January 1931]

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

GRANT XXV—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Grant XXV—Co-operative Societies—Transferred.'

"In moving this token demand, I have to remind hon. Members that this sum is for the appointment of a marketing officer for the Salem Weaving Co-operative Society. I have to refer hon. Members to the explanatory note wherein the need for this demand has been fully mentioned. As a result of the Civil Disobedience Movement, the Salem weavers were hit very hard, for they lost their important market in the Northern Circars. There has been an intense propaganda against Salem cloth and the result was that a large number of weavers were thrown out of employment and conditions became very serious and the Collector and other leading men of the district started a co-operative society with a view to helping these weavers. The Committee was functioning well and the proposal is to give a helping hand to the society in the matter of finding sales for the manufactured goods and the appointment of a marketing officer is with a view to—

(1) go about the chief cloth-consuming centres of South India and study the condition of the cloth market,

(2) to ascertain the requirements and patterns of different localities,

(3) to put the Salem Weavers' Society in direct contact with the wholesale consumers, and

(4) to study the demand of the public and generally to assist the society in getting cheap yarn and to find a market for the sale of its goods.

In short, he will be the marketing officer for the society. The appointment is proposed to be made for a period of six months and the money can be found from the savings from the current year's budget. The expenditure constitutes a new service and hence this demand is moved and I hope the House will pass it."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise—

'to move the reduction of the grant by Re. 1'

to discuss the policy of the Government set forth by the hon. Minister, in his speech.

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"I find that the Government are extremely solicitous about one particular class of weavers. The Government come forward with proposals for encouraging the weavers of the Salem district while on the other hand they have forbidden co-operative societies from dealing with hand-spun cloth or yarn. I, for my part, would have been greatly pleased if such a sort of encouragement were also given in the matter of the hand-spun cloth and yarn. But, instead there still stands the ban and we have been asked to vote this sum for the purpose of encouraging the sale of cloth made out of foreign yarn. It seems to me to be a case of distinct discrimination. Why is the Government anxious to safeguard the interests of these weavers? Why have they a soft heart towards the weavers dealing with foreign yarn? They are obstructing the general sentiment of the country in favour of the development of hand-spinning and the production of hand-woven cloth. I could have understood it if the Government had been equally solicitous of the interests of the whole community of weavers, be they the weaver of foreign yarn or the weaver of hand-spun yarn. I do not know what the policy of the Government will be regarding the Government Orders I have mentioned. If it is that they are to be withdrawn, then well and good. But so long as there is no endeavour on the part of the Government to encourage hand-spinning and the production of hand-spun cloth, so long as no such policy of helping a very important home industry is pursued, there will be nothing to relieve the economic strain the country is under. It has been recognized by the Government that cottage industries are the corner stones to the economic stability of the country. Now, Sir, if no help in this direction is forthcoming, I consider it most objectionable to take a step in the wrong direction, and I hope the House will support the cut motion."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, in seconding this motion, I have just to say one or two words. It should be the policy of the Government, if really they desire to encourage a certain industry in this province, to make no distinction with regard to the particular class of weavers that they seek to help. There is no doubt that on the face of the motion, it seems that it is the Indian weaver that is sought to be helped. But, Sir, if we go deeper, we see what the real intention of the Government is, i.e., they want to find a larger market for the foreign cloth, instead of taking steps to introduce measures for improving the production of hand-spun yarn. They are now concerting measures to help a society which is dealing in foreign yarn. That ought not to be the policy of the Government—under whatever guise it may be. Instead of that, they ought not to make any distinction; they ought to help every weaver whether he uses foreign yarn or not. They know that it causes a good deal of trouble in making use of hand-spun yarn. The weavers themselves find no facilities afforded to them and they naturally resort to the foreign yarn so that they may get a living out of it. If such a step as this which, if followed on a wider scale, would amount to an anti-hand-spun cloth propaganda, were to be taken and if, instead of coming to the help of the hand-spun weaving, you go to the

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rescue of the foreign cloth dealer by finding ways and means to get sales for his production, it is not possible to have at least industrial independence which is the one object every body should have near his heart. I am of the opinion that it is the primary duty of the Government to protect the indigenous industries of the country and I have great pleasure in seconding the motion."

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a.m.

Mr. D. THOMAS:—"I beg to oppose the motion for reducing the grant. In doing so, I should not be taken to mean that I am in any way opposed to encouraging or affording facilities to carders and spinners. I do not see the force or the relevancy or the necessity of Government coming forward to help carding. I do not see how it is relevant to the subject before the House. In Salem there are nearly 80,000 weavers and owing to the present economic conditions and probably also owing to the spread of the khaddar movement in this Presidency, these weavers are now in difficulties. Sir, their trade and occupation are at a standstill and now I believe the Government is coming forward to help these 80,000 weavers to find a market for their produce. I think the objections that have been made in connexion with the Government not coming forward to the help of the khaddar manufacturers does not really mean that the Salem weavers who are employed in their own hereditary business of weaving silk and other lace cloths should not also be helped by Government. I believe the Government would in due course of time, when the finances permit, come forward to help all the weavers of this Province. I hope that the Government will find the finance and I do hope that that time will be very soon. I believe there are co-operative societies all over the Presidency for helping weavers and if the Government would in a more generous measure come forward with financial facilities for the encouragement of co-operative societies all over the Province, I believe the problem of helping weavers in this Province will be largely solved. At the present moment the House has to consider whether there is not a case made out for this particular demand now before the House. I therefore beg to oppose the motion and support the granting of the demand."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I want to say a few words. It is more in the nature of a helpful criticism than regular opposition. I no doubt agree that the object is good. But I am afraid the method is entirely futile. It looks as though nothing could be done without casting a fling on the Congress and its activities. This Registrar of Co-operative Societies cannot evidently escape that temptation to somehow or other bring the Congress into disrepute if it lay in his power. But Congress is too big an organization for flies like the Co-operative Registrar to gibe at. That apart I should like the hon. Minister to examine the question in a little more detail. It is no doubt a new venture touching the economic aspect of nationalism by trying to help communities which have been following certain industries and now thrown out of employment. But in the matter of dealing with this question members are changing their opinion. Previous to the hon. the present Minister, my esteemed Friend, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar,

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while he was there, instituted a sort of general survey of cottage industries to tide over his regime of office. Certain reports are ready and I do not know if my hon. Friend, Mr. Rajan, who in his non-official days, did not very much care for these things had looked into the report dealing with the Salem district. I draw attention to page 11 of the Report on Cottage Industries in which the condition of the weavers is very graphically described. It is said:

‘The Weaving Superintendent removed his headquarters from Tiruchengodu to Salem as the weavers of the former could not be brought to understand the advantage of a sizing machine which saves much labour and time. Even with their illiteracy they could improve their condition by thrift. But the drink evil has so much subverted them, that a big slice of their income is shared by the arrack shop-keeper and very little is left for sustenance and much less for ameliorating their condition. As we study the industry in different places, the problem of the weaver seems to constitute more a labour problem than anything else.’

“Again, later on, the same officer in page 39 says: ‘Thus the problem of the actual weaver is a labour problem requiring solution.’ There are two reasons which are quoted in this survey of the Cottage Industries Report and I should very much like to know from the hon. the Minister for Public Works who evinced very much interest towards the weavers, whether he has tackled the first reason, namely, the drink problem and whether he has had any consultation with his Colleague, Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddi, to see that a few drink shops are closed there in order to save these poor weavers from starvation. Apart from that the present question is that the weavers have got a certain stock of cloth. Those are Salem angavastrams and dhotis. They were hitherto consumed by the Northern Circars. Owing to the Civil Disobedience Movement, or the Swaraj movement or the khaddar propaganda, those things are not saleable. What is this marketing officer going to do? Is he going to educate the weavers and the Circars people to give up khaddar and take up to these angavastrams or go to other places to spread the angavastram propaganda? This seems to be a mischievous proposition. I may assure the hon. Minister that no such thing will be possible especially under the present trying circumstances. It may be easy for an experienced man to try fresh markets when things settle down and people are not very much enthused, and they may also take up to Indian goods turned out by Indian industry locally. Even there what the Government is going to do is to appoint a Deputy Tahsildar, or a Revenue Inspector who knows absolutely nothing of business, who knows no method by which he can canvass business. He is not going to profit the weavers. It may profit some officer for six months and he will be continued for another year drawing pay without benefit to the weavers to whom so much sympathy is evinced. Instead of doing this for six months, you may offer that to the co-operative society itself and ask one of the merchants themselves to tour and find out if there is any market for these goods. Unless the Minister is in a position to assure that one of the weavers themselves would be deputed to do this work I should ask the Council to reject this demand unceremoniously. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this aspect of the question. It is not our unwillingness to assist the Minister in his laudable object of rescuing

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the weavers of Salem or some other district. I would rather like one district benefited than all districts going without it. But let that not be wasted on a Deputy Tahsildar. Let the weaver himself go and find out a market for himself."

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"When my attention was drawn to this demand I did not read into it the suggestion that this is an attempt to help this industry as against hand-weaving and hand-spinning industry. I took it to be an innocent thing and considered it on its own merit from all points of view. I am a merchant myself and I have given much thought to all matters connected with industries such as finding a market and creating a demand and all that. These questions always come before merchants and from a mercantile point of view I consider this question. Marketing and creating a demand are not questions which can be solved by the appointment of an officer. There are laws of supply and demand and these cannot be manipulated by a Government official. Co-operative weaving societies will have to adjust their industry according to the law of supply and demand. The manufacturers produce whatever patterns are wanted. Salesmen go round and find out patterns generally in demand. I cannot understand why those weavers have no idea of the patterns that are saleable. They are supposed to have been long in business and they ought to know the A B C of the industry. Then, Sir, it has been said that another object of appointing the officer is that he will bring the weavers into contact with the consumers. The consumers go to the manufacturer and not the manufacturer to the consumer. Consumers suggest the thing that is wanted. The manufacturers also send round their salesmen to go and find sales for their wares. But an officer appointed by the Government could give no help whatever in this matter. Then, Sir, the appointment is for six months. I consider that more than six months will be necessary to study this question. If we sanction the appointment of this officer now, it means that we must be prepared after six months to extend it again. It means that the Government is adding to its departments a new department by appointing salesmen for certain industries. If the Government were to commit themselves to the policy of appointing a salesman to a particular industry, then why should it be to the weaving industry alone? I think this is a very broad question and it should not be dealt with in such a haphazard manner as it is now attempted to do. So I am opposed to this whole grant and support this motion for cut."

* The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Sir, in replying to the points raised by various hon. Members, may I with your permission give them the following information about the co-operative weaving societies? Sir, co-operative societies for weavers are formed in villages wherever they can be found. In the Presidency there are about 134 societies solely or mostly composed of weavers. A central society which would supply yarn to those societies would arrange for the sale of their finished products and would require financial help, which unfortunately the Government is not in a position to afford. (Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar: Do they use foreign yarn?) They use all kinds of

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yarn, any yarn that is available to them. Salem, Sir, is a good centre for the weaving industry. As I told the House, as the weavers find their lot very hard on account of the trade depression, something has to be done, and that is why we are giving a special marketing officer to find sales for the cloths they produce.

“Then, coming to the point raised by Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, I may assure the House that there is no prohibition or obstacle thrown in the way of khadder being made and sold even by co-operative societies if those societies are meant for the production and sale of khadder. (Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar: What about the Government Order? Will you cancel it?) There is no Government Order which prevents it, and so there is nothing to cancel. There is no bar to co-operative societies being formed for the production and sale of any kind of cloth.

“Coming to Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti's remarks, I am indeed thankful to him for his criticisms which I am sure are merely to help the Government. I am quite in agreement with him that there are a number of problems connected with the weaving community at Salem. Of course, I do not say that I am dealing with the question in all its aspects. There is the labour problem with which my hon. Colleague, the Home Member, deals, and there is the drink problem, which my hon. Friend, Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, will deal with. There is only one aspect with which I should now deal, and that is how best to help the weaving societies in finding a market for their products. By the appointment of this special marketing officer, the Government's intention is not to carry on any anti-khadder propaganda. If that is the fear of any of the hon. Members here, I can assure them that there is nothing of the sort. My hon. Friend, Mr. Venkatachalam Chetti, said that we were going to appoint a Revenue Inspector or a Tahsildar for the purpose. It is not at all the case. We are going to lend the services of a Sub-Deputy Registrar who knows all about co-operative work. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: Can he find a market for the particular kind of cloth?) It is his business, Sir, to go round and find a market for the products of those co-operative weaving societies. I do not say that he is going to do any propaganda against khadder. He will find out the particular localities where the cloth turned out by the societies can be sold. For that purpose, we are making the appointment for six months at the initial stage. Later on, it may be possible for one of the members of the society there to carry on that work. I hope that within the six months during which this officer will carry on the work, trade depression would go and that the society itself would be able to carry on the work without outside help.

“As far as Mr. Yaqub Hasan's remark is concerned, I agree with him that six months will be too short a period for the purpose. But, as I said, it may be possible that after six months, the society itself through one of its members will be able to do the work that is proposed to be done by the special officer. So, I hope the House will reject the amendment and pass the grant.”

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* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that the token demand of Rs. 100 under Grant XXV—Co-operative Societies—Transferred be reduced by Re. 1."

• The motion was lost.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Grant XXV—Co-operative Societies—Transferred."

The demand was carried, and the grant made.

GRANT XXXI—CIVIL WORKS—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 900 under Grant XXXI—Civil Works—Transferred.'

"The explanatory note gives detailed information regarding the items comprised within this demand. I hope the House will pass it."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'that the allotment for each of the nine token demands ^a totalling Rs. 900 under Grant XXXI—Civil Works—Transferred, be reduced by Re. 1.'

"I do so, Sir, in order to draw the attention of this House to the way in which the Government propose to spend the money at their disposal. Mr. President, you know what unparalleled economic distress this country is now passing through. I do not think any one in this House knows within living memory a state of things similar to the one

	RS.
^a (a) Acquisition of land for the construction of buildings for offices and for residence for Government officials in Anantapur ...	100
(b) Adjustment of the value of the Mettur Taluk office buildings and quarters written back from the accounts of the Mettur Project to '41. Civil Works—Provincial'	100
(c) Reconstruction of the latrines in the High Court and Law College on the flush-out system	100
(d) Construction of quarters for the District Superintendent of Police, Ramnad, at Madura	100
(e) Electric installation in the Headquarters Hospital, Coimbatore ...	100
(f) Drainage scheme for the King George Hospital, Vizagapatam ...	100
(g) Improvements in the water-supply of the Raja Mirasdar District Headquarter Hospital, Tanjore	100
(h) Resurfacing the road over the Coleroon Bridge at Trichinopoly ...	100
(i) Grant of compensation on account of the premature retirement of two Assistant Engineers	100
Total ...	900

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which we have now. It has become so difficult for the ryots of this Presidency even to raise a portion of the land revenue that is necessary to be paid to the Government. They are finding it impossible to meet in full the ordinary demands of the Government. All the gold with them has been pledged. Prices are so low that their commodities will not fetch sufficient money, and even for the low price that they are likely to get, they are not finding it easy to find a sale for their commodities. When such is the state of affairs, whatever money the Government can spare should be utilized for the purpose of relieving the distress that is prevailing amongst the ryot population in this Presidency. Unless it is for an urgent or paramount necessity, on no account should a pie of this money be spent on other things.

“ Now, Sir, let us come to the present demand for providing money for building construction. I am not attacking merely the items comprising this demand. But I would certainly attack any provision made for construction of new buildings. With regard to this, a distinction ought to be made between the buildings which are necessary for the purpose of offices and buildings which may be considered necessary by the Government for the purpose of providing residential quarters for their officers. I for one would not ordinarily question the necessity for making provision for residential quarters for officers of the Government. Even in regard to providing residences to officers, the time for doing such a thing is not now, unless it is a paramount necessity. Otherwise, not a pie of Government money should now be spent on that. So far as the budget allotment goes, there are really not very many items of building construction on which money is proposed to be spent. I leave it at that.

“ Now, coming to the question of residential quarters, I find included in this demand the construction of quarters for the District Superintendent of Police, Ramnad, at Madura. I do not know, Sir, what exactly is the amount that is necessary for this purpose. It is not mentioned in the small note supplied to us. I find from the proceedings of the Finance Committee that the amount required is something like Rs. 40,000. But, according to the note supplied to us, the estimated cost of the quarters was Rs. 25,500. You know, Sir, recently the Government appointed a committee for the purpose of finding out whether the ordinary designs which were then in existence were suitable for the officers, and they have decided to change the design, with the result that the cost of construction has enormously increased from Rs. 25,500 which was the original estimate, to the present estimate of Rs. 40,000. That is for providing a residence for the District Superintendent of Police, Ramnad. I also found in another connexion a provision for similar quarters for the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Ellore. Apart from the economic aspect of this question, the times are such that, unless the Government find it absolutely impossible to make a provision otherwise for the officers concerned, I do not think it would be advisable to spend any money on these buildings. It

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is no doubt said that the present building in which the Deputy Superintendent is living is wanted for a Sub-Collector. I believe, if the Government want it, I do not think it will be impossible for the Government to find some other public or private building for him. I am pretty sure a building could be found. But the Deputy Superintendent may say that the building is not suitable for him. The times are coming when officers, big or small, should be satisfied with the buildings supplied to them.

“Now, coming to the economic aspect of this question of providing residences for officers, we are told very often that the Government is making provision for residential quarters for officers because it is necessary to provide them with quarters in places where suitable buildings are not available, and that the Government are recovering rent from them for those quarters. The Government receive as rent only about 10 per cent of the pay of the officer concerned, and that is the maximum that he can be asked to pay. As it is, even our Government is finding it difficult to raise money on less than 6 per cent interest. Until recently, the Government of India was lending at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the local Governments. Now they have to pay 6 per cent. At that rate, the interest will come to Rs. 200 for a building costing Rs. 40,000. And then, what about depreciation, repairs, and taxes that are necessary to be paid to the municipality? It will all come to, I believe, Rs. 70 to Rs. 100. At a moderate calculation, you can put the cost at Rs. 275 a month as the expenditure on such a building. Will 10 per cent of the pay of the officer cover that amount? I do not think it would. Unless the Government can convince us that these buildings will pay their way and that the officers concerned are going to pay for all that is necessary for the building that is provided for them, we in this House cannot allow any such expenditure. I think that even if the Government guarantees that the expenditure is likely to bring in an adequate return, the times are not such that you can at present spend any money on capital construction. Every pie of the money that the Government can spare should be reserved for relieving the distress that is now prevailing amongst the ryots of this Presidency.

“I do not know, Sir, whether I will be allowed to speak on the other items on which I have given notice of amendments.”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The hon. Member may speak on all the amendments together.”

MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—“Sir, in another connexion, I have given notice of a cut motion with regard to the provision for improvements to the water-supply of the Raja Mirasidar District Headquarter Hospital at Tanjore. The point I want to raise is this. It is said that the municipal supply is insufficient to meet the growing demands of the hospital. Since the municipal supply was insufficient, the Government thought it necessary to supply its own water to the hospital. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the municipality has been consulted, whether it is not able to supply the growing demands of this hospital. If they are prepared to meet the growing demand

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for water, I really think it would be a very bad policy for the Government to supply its own water at such a cost. I believe that a good portion of the taxes that are collected by the municipality does come from the residences of officers provided by Government and from other public buildings. Naturally the municipality would certainly look to this source of income. Unless the municipality is charging the Government an excessive rate taking advantage of the necessities of the Government, I think this scheme would be uneconomical both in the interests of the Government as well as that of the municipality. Sir, if you take the figures here given in the explanatory note, you will find that even if the municipality has consented to it, the scheme of the Government to provide its own water for the hospital would cost about Rs. 20,300. If you take into account the interest on this capital outlay it will come to more than Rs. 1,200 per annum and the recurring expenditure is estimated to be Rs. 7,000. As against this, the note says, there will be a saving of at least Rs. 7,300 a year under water charges otherwise payable to the municipal council, and a further saving of Rs. 1,200 on account of the cost of meters. I do not know how the item under meters is a saving. The meters are already there. Are the Government going to get any money for these old meters? So, I think the scheme would not be economical. In my opinion it would be advantageous to allow the municipality to supply water to the hospital. If the Government is going to supply water to the hospital when the municipality is prepared to meet the demand in that respect, it would not be in the interests of the municipality or the Government themselves to set up a new water-supply system for the needs of the hospital.

12-15
P.M.

“ On the question of the supply of electricity also the same principles will apply. With regard to the other items such as the provision of latrines for the High Court although there is not the same objection, I do not think there is any necessity for the expenditure of such large sums as have been provided. And at least at this juncture when the finances of the province are not in a normal condition, it is absolutely necessary that the expenditure of large sums on residential quarters should be put off.”

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ Mr. President, after the remarks on the subject that have fallen from my hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, I think I can be very brief. I can speak about this question from personal knowledge and that is why I rise. These buildings are all constructed and maintained at a loss. It is a fact which every one in the House knows. On the whole the Government is incurring a loss on the construction and maintenance of these buildings. Now, Sir, at a time like this when the country is passing through a serious economic crisis and the funds at the disposal of the Government are very limited on account of the fact that the taxes are not likely to be collected in full, it seems to me to be very questionable that the Government should, at this stage, commit the House and the country to a policy of building construction which is certainly going to enhance the losses already incurred on buildings

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and their maintenance. In addition to this, there is this fact that at the present day, on account of the rise in the cost of materials and rise in the cost of labour you cannot really construct buildings which, if assessed at the proper rate, will be acceptable even to their occupants. Very often the assessed rent comes to such a figure that you cannot really recover the amount from the officers concerned and so you have necessarily to recover a smaller amount. This is a common feature of the Government buildings in the matter of rent. So that, knowing all this, with their eyes wide open, if the Government are going to commit the country to further losses by this policy of constructing residential quarters especially in the present financial situation, there will be no justification for it. I have no doubt, Sir, that there are stations where there is some inconvenience about quarters but it is possible to get over that inconvenience in various ways. I want to refer to another point.

“Sir, in view of the coming constitutional changes one of the effects of which, I should think, would be a rather larger Indianization than hitherto, it seems certain that many of these quarters may not be wanted by their future occupants. Even now, Sir, many Indian officers do not care to live in the residences intended for them. They stay elsewhere. Very often what happens is this: you construct a residence to suit the convenience of European officers and then when an Indian officer comes to occupy it, you have got to make alterations in that building to suit his convenience. When a Brahman officer wants to occupy it, you have to make some changes, and then when a Muhammadan officer has to occupy it, you put up temporary arrangements for gosha and things of that sort. I think, Sir, that in view of the fact that Indianization will be a feature of the coming constitutional changes and that, in consequence, possibly even the present quarters, or some of them, may not be required, it seems to me a doubtful policy for the Government to launch further into a scheme of provision for further residences.

“For the present, Sir, I am suggesting the following arrangement: if private residences are not available for the use of your officers, you can, by agreement with some private people, arrange for the construction of these buildings, yourself agreeing to pay a certain rent for a certain number of years. The only thing is that they would construct their buildings according to their plan and not according to the Government plan. Some such arrangement can be made. It seems to me that where there is a will there would be a way. I am only asking the Government that, at this stage, they should not commit themselves and the public into further schemes of construction of residences which are surely going to enhance the loss which is incurred by the Government on this item.”

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“Mr. President, I am very glad that the Government propose to construct buildings for the accommodation of the officers especially, Sir, in a district where I am told there is a dearth of proper accommodation for them. But my

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grievance is that the same liberality is not shown in the case of certain irrigation works for which money is badly needed. Sir, when we ask for money for the digging of a channel or for the repair of a tank and so on, the Government plead lack of funds. But when they are on the question of constructing residential quarters for their officers, they are very liberal and are able to find enough money. When I see this attitude adopted, my mind naturally grows suspicious and makes me think that there is something deeper in this affair. The Public Works Department are always anxious to put up plans for new and big buildings. I hope the hon. Minister during his term of office will find out what the secret of it is. I see that they have got a very big idea of acquiring a large tract of land and building various offices and residential quarters. I want to know whether the Government have got a definite plan well scrutinized or whether they are taking up the question of these residential quarters haphazard. It is very often the case that they go on constructing one building after another and then pull them down when they are found to offend a certain taste. Therefore I ask the hon. Minister whether the Department has drawn up a definite plan or scheme and what the ultimate cost of the whole scheme will be."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Sir, my idea in giving notice of a motion^a to reduce the supplementary demand is to know what is going to happen to the buildings and other structures which are already there at Mettur and whether it is not a fact that the whole cost of those buildings should be debited to the loan funds which are received from the Government of India. In case they are to be so debited to the loan funds, why should we debit them to depreciation in the Provincial account? I thought, Sir, that the Mettur scheme is being financed by the loan funds from the Government of India, the interest thereon being payable after some years. If my presumption is correct, I want to know why the value of the present structures and depreciation thereon should be debited to the Provincial account and what is really going to be done with these structures after the scheme is completed."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I quite sympathize with my hon. Friend from Cuddapah when he pleads that we should not spend our money on buildings. But so far as the departments under my charge are concerned, there are only three items which come in for expenditure under this demand. These are (1) Electric installation in the Headquarters Hospital, Tanjore, (2) Drainage scheme for the King George Hospital, Vizagapatam, and (3) Improvements to the water-supply of the Raja Mirasidar District Headquarter

^a Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:

To reduce the token demand for Rs. 100 under Grant XXXI—Civil Works—Transferred—(i) Grant of compensation on account of the premature retirement of two Assistant Engineers, by Re. 1.

(To elicit further information as to the total sum involved by the premature retirement of Assistant Engineers owing to the reduction of the cadre from 106 to 75.)

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Hospital, Tanjore. I see that no objection has been taken to the first two items. As regards the third item of expenditure, some objection has been taken. In regard to that I am asked for information whether the municipal council has been consulted and whether after all it is a wise policy to deprive the municipal council of the income it is now getting and to instal a new set of plant for the supply of water for the hospital alone. Sir, the fact is that some 20,000 gallons of water are required every year for this hospital at Tanjore. The chairman of the municipal council found that the present supply was not sufficient even for the municipality and therefore he wanted to introduce meter and also some other changes in regard to the supply of water to the hospital.

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“ Certain correspondence passed between the hospital authorities and the chairman and ultimately the Chairman, Municipal Council, cut off the supply for certain reasons as a result of which the Government had to consider and ultimately the Medical officer suggested whether it might not be more economical if the hospital had its own well, pump and elevated reservoir so that a satisfactory supply of water might be assured and that at the same time the supply to the town might be improved by releasing the quantity now used for the hospital. Then a committee was constituted by the Government in 1929 with the Collector as chairman, the other members being the Superintendent of the hospital, Chairman, Municipal Council, the Municipal Electrical Engineer, the Superintending Engineer of that division and the Superintendent, Borstal school. They were asked to go into the question as to how far it was advisable for the hospital to have an installation of its own for the supply of water. That committee met, but the Chairman, Municipal Council, would not attend, the Electrical Engineer would not attend, but other members attended. The committee decided to have a separate water-supply to the hospital. A copy of this report was communicated to the Chairman, Municipal Council, but he did not care to reply either to the Collector or to the Government until to-day. In fact I was anxious to find out whether the Chairman, Municipal Council, has any objection to the proposed scheme, but more than six months have passed but the Chairman, Municipal Council, has not raised any protest. We ascertained that the supply of water given by the Municipal Council was not sufficient and that if there was a separate installation, it will supply about 20,000 gallons per day, required for the hospital. Mr. Koti Reddi observed that there will be no saving in regard to meters. The Chairman insisted that meter should be attached within a certain time on penalty of water-supply being cut off. The question thus arose before the Government whether they may have their own scheme put into operation or they may put up meters. If the meter is put up, we will have to incur an expenditure of Rs. 1,200. There are no old meters to be scrapped. You will find that under the scheme proposed you will have three items of expenditure, viz., (1) water-supply scheme, Rs. 7,200, (2) flush syphon in the hospital compound, Rs. 2,000 and (3) drainage improvements, Rs. 11,100. The first item of expenditure is only Rs. 7,200 which will

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have to be incurred on account of fixing up a pump which would be worked by electricity. I may give for the information of the House that it is proposed to take the supply of electricity from the municipal council and to that extent the municipality will be benefited. It is considered that more than 20,000 gallons a day will be required for the hospital and now the hospital is paying at Rs. 2 per 1,000 gallons to the municipality. The actual extra cost that would have to be incurred is only Rs. 7,200 as mentioned above. It is considered that the work may be taken up this year alone so as to avoid putting up meters and incurring unnecessary loss."

* The hon. Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I wish to refer only to the observations of one of my hon. Friends who referred to the construction of buildings at Anantapur. As a matter of fact, item (b) in this grant refers only to the acquisition of the lands. It is not intended to cover the construction of any building. A costly building for the location of the District Court has been completed and it has cost something like $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs, and the District Judge has begun to hold his court there. The proposal is to acquire a site in front of that building so that we may prevent unsightly buildings springing up in front of the District Court. When I went two or three months ago to Anantapur, the members of the Bar and of the public waited on me and represented that inasmuch as the Government had sanctioned the location of a permanent District Munsif's court in Anantapur and inasmuch as the munsif's court was now located in a rented building, it was highly necessary that Government should acquire the plot in front of the District Court building so that a building might be put up there, to locate the District Munsif's court. There is no proposal now for the construction of a building. In fact, neither plans nor estimates have been prepared. When the plans and estimates for the construction of the building are ready, they will be placed before this House. My Friend will then have an opportunity of speaking on that. Now it is proposed only to acquire the site. I may also tell my hon. Friend that we are able to find funds for the acquisition by re-appropriation."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I should just like to say a few words in regard to the quarters of the District Superintendent of Police, Ramnad."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Is he to be permanently put at Madura?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes. The building in which he now resides belongs to the Revenue Department and it is intended for the Assistant Collector who is posted to Madura. The Revenue Department want that we should surrender the building to them. I fully agree with the criticisms that have been levelled against us, that we should not put up costly buildings in a year when we have got so much of financial stringency. But we find it is very difficult to transfer the officers for want of suitable building there. It was pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, that Government should try to find out private capitalists who could put

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up these buildings and rent them. I may say for the information of the House that the Inspector-General of Police tried to find out whether there were any private capitalists who could do this in Madura; but there were none coming forward. Hence arises the necessity of building a suitable house for the police officer and I have to come before this House for this grant."

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"As for the remarks of my hon. Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, as to what is going to happen to the taluk office building after the Mettur project is finished, I may say that it may be utilized for some other Government office there or it may be sold."

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I have explained to the hon. Member personally and I think he is now satisfied."

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"My hon. Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, wanted further information regarding the total amount of compensation involved owing to the reduction of the cadre. The amount of compensation in all amounts to Rs. 1,42,905-5-4."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that each of the nine token demands totalling in all Rs. 900 be reduced by Re. 1."

The motion was lost.

Then the demand for Rs. 900 under Grant XXXI—Civil Works—Transferred, was put and carried, and the grant made.

GRANT XXXIII—STATIONERY AND PRINTING—RESERVED.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I beg to move—

'that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 2,89,230 under Grant XXXIII—Stationery and Printing—Reserved.'

"Sir, the reasons for which this amount is required are clearly shown in the explanatory note which has been already supplied to hon. Members."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I beg to move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 2,89,230 under Grant XXXIII be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"My object in moving this cut is to ask for information. On page 25 of the explanatory memorandum it is stated 'The heavy issues in 1929-30 were due to the general expansion of work and to the creation of new offices in various departments.' This has not been very clearly explained. This House does not know how the work has so much extended. In the same paragraph they say 'The budget figures of 1930-31 were based on the issues of 1928-29 which were the latest figures available at the time the budget estimates were framed.' That may be part of the reason for their wrong estimate in the year 1930-31. But curiously

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enough they say further in the same paragraph 'The heavy issue in 1929-30 were due to the general expansion of work and to the creation of new offices in various departments.' The point I wish to make is that this House has no means of knowing about the creation of new offices. We have no information for giving expression to our opinions on many of the items. I merely make this motion to obtain information."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"I simply second the motion."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I beg to move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 2,89,230 under Grant XXXIII—Stationery and Printing, be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"The object of my motion is to elicit information as to what, if any, amount is utilized in the purchase of articles manufactured in India and what amount is spent on articles imported from England and other countries. I see that the hon. the Home Member has in his charge several portfolios in the administration of which it is very easy for him to come into conflict with his Colleagues. One such is purchase of stores. In articles like stationery, it is common knowledge that this country can produce equally good and fine quality of material and there does not seem to be any reason why at least this particular item, namely, stationery, could not be entirely purchased in this country.

"As a matter of fact, the Government themselves have started a pencil factory and have handed it over to a very enterprising commercial firm, who, I am told, are running the factory on very efficient lines and they are manufacturing many kinds of pencils including copying pencils. In every exhibition we see their articles exhibited. Apart from the paper factories in Calcutta, in our own Presidency there is a mill at Rajahmundry where paper is being manufactured. Perhaps paper is not being manufactured there in as large a quantity as may be required. When stationery articles are being manufactured in this country, it seems to me that it is the duty of each department of the Government to buy their requirements from India. I wish to know whether these indigenous articles are being purchased. I hope the hon. the Home Member will agree with me in this matter of encouraging Swadeshi articles. There need not be any conflict of opinion in this matter. We might easily follow the example of the Britishers in encouraging their Swadeshi articles, the example followed by them in England and not in India. They have got different ways of encouraging Swadeshi articles, one for their own country and another for this country. We should rather follow what they do in their own country and not what they ask us to do here. With these words I beg to move the motion standing in my name."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I beg to second the motion."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"My hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, wanted information about increase of expenditure for stationery articles on account of creation

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of new offices. I find that during the end of the year 1929-30 about 53 new offices came into existence. I shall give below the names of those offices:—

Secretary, Madras Services Commission.

Special Officer for Korava Reclamation Work, Salem.

Manager, Sembiam Criminal Tribes Settlement, Villiyakkam.

Chairman, Temperance Publicity Committee, Madras.

District Agricultural Officer, Salem.

Executive Engineer, Investigation Division, Trichinopoly.

District Superintendent of Police, South Madura.

Secretary, Central Propaganda Board, Madras.

Executive Engineer, Cauvery Delta Investigation Special Division, Kumbakonam.

Executive Engineer, Special Investigation Division, Bezwada and Bhavani.

District Labour Officer, Tinnevely.

District Labour Officer, Kurnool.

District Labour Officer, Coimbatore.

Inspector of Factories, III Circle, Guntur.

Government Industrial Institutes, Bellary and Calicut.

Government Trades School, Mangalore.

Assistant Industrial Engineer, Bellary.

Five new Circle Officers in the Veterinary department.

Five offices of the Co-operative department.

One District Labour Officer.

Superintending Engineer, Dowlaishweram Circle.

District Educational Officer, Malabar South, Calicut.

Headmistress, Government Training School for Women, Tinnevely.

Inspectress of Girls' Schools, V Circle, Calicut.

Inspectress of Girls' Schools, II Circle, Nellore.

Sub-Assistant Inspector of Schools, Masulipatam.

Six Muslim Girls' Range, Nellore.

Sub-Assistant Inspector, Girls' Range, Cannanore and Kurumbanad.

Sub-Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Salem, Usilampatti, Palghat, Trichinopoly, Cuddapah, Amalapuram, Walluvanad and Dindigul.

Headmistress, Government Training School for Muhammadan Women, Vaniyambadi.

Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Northern Division, Vizagapatam.

Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Southern Division, Coimbatore.

Inspector of Excise, Jeypore Agency.

Superintendent, Presidency Jail for Women.

Superintendent, Wellesley Sanatorium Jail, Bellary.

“On account of the creation of these 53 new offices, we require very much more stationery than what was anticipated, therefore I have come before the House with this demand.

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“As regards the purchase of stationery, I may say this: That of the amount of supplementary grant required, viz., Rs. 2,89,230 and Rs. 20,800, stationery accounts for Rs. 1,58,700; the Superintendent of Stationery reports that of this, only Rs. 40,000 represents the cost of imported articles, which cannot be made in India and the rest is for articles manufactured in India. I have no reason to suppose that that statement is incorrect.

“Other articles of stationery such as ink, pencils, gum, sealing wax, paste, etc., are mostly purchased from Indian firms, Jail department, Industries department, etc., and except when certain superior qualities are required, they are almost invariably of Indian manufacture. I shall always bear in mind the question of increasing our purchases in India.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“I beg to withdraw my motion.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—“I also beg to withdraw my motion.”

The cut motions were, by leave, withdrawn.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The question is ‘that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 2,89,230 under Grant XXXIII—Stationery and Printing—Reserved.’”

The demand was carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXXIV—STATIONERY—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“Sir, I beg to move—

‘that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 20,800 under Grant XXXIV—Stationery—Transferred’

“As explained in the note that has been circulated to hon. Members, this amount represents that portion of the stationery articles that are supplied to Transferred departments. I therefore request that the demand be granted.”

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXXV—AGENCY TRACTS—RESERVED.

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—“Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

‘that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Grant XXXV—Agency Tracts—Reserved.’

“This token demand provides for the reconstruction of some 50 culverts on the Baud Road in the Ganjam Agency, an important road which leads from the Agency to the border of Bihar and Orissa. These culverts are at present constructed with wooden deckings; they are worn out; in some cases abutments are shaky. There has been considerable increase of traffic on this road and traffic is also becoming

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heavier. In any case a considerable sum of money must be spent on the repairs of these wooden deckings and it is considered wiser to replace them even by reinforced concrete."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

III.—REPORT OF THE MADRAS SERVICES COMMISSION.

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'that the report of the Madras Services Commission for the year 1929-30, submitted with reference to section 20 of the Madras Services Commission Act, 1929 (Madras Act XI of 1929), be taken into consideration'."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I beg to second the motion."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I make a submission to you, Sir? I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will be pleased to agree to the suggestion. We are somewhat taken by surprise though this item has been put on the agenda paper. I must say that, owing to negligence, some of us have not read the report at all. My request is that this item may be taken at the next convenient meeting of the Council. I wish to know if there is going to be any inconvenience if this matter is taken up for consideration at the next convenient meeting."

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Sir, this report was placed on the table of the House on the 19th November 1930. Therefore it has been before hon. Members for over two months. If the House wishes to have further time to consider it, I have certainly no objection."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I move, Sir,—

'that the consideration of this item be taken up at the next convenient meeting of the Council.'"

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I second it."

The motion was carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Council will now adjourn and meet again on the 24th February at 11 a.m."

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.